

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 8, 2005.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

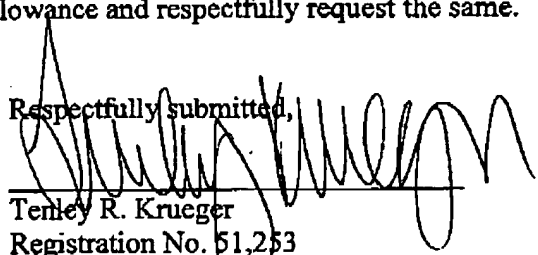
Claims 134 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-27 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,770,716 (Sosa). Applicants have amended the pending claims to clarify the scope of the invention, as discussed in the interview (e.g., alkali and alkaline earth metals.) Accordingly, the claims issued in Sosa no longer recite the features of the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sosa. As stated above and discussed in the interview, Sosa does not teach or suggest the features recited in the amended claims.

In response to the statement in the Office Action that no references were received in relation to the PTO-1449, Applicants have no record of filing a PTO-1449. As such, please disregard.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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